Osmania Courier

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Moves to improve OU's ranking

Osmania University has embarked on an industry outreach exercise to shore up its rankings on the perception parameter of the National Institutional Ranking Framework.

At a review meeting held recently, Arvind Kumar (IAS), incharge Vice Chancellor, directed University officials to engage with the corporates and showcase major accomplishments, academic initiatives, especially on employable skills. This, he hoped, would prepare the mindsets of Chief Executive Officers to respond positively when the NIRF survey is conducted.

Expressing concern over the low score accorded to the University by the corporates on the perception factor, the Mr Kumar has sought updated information from the departments, colleges, research institutions on recent initiatives.

Prof. Gopal Reddy gets extension as Registrar

Prof. Ch. Gopal Reddy has been given an extension as Registrar, Osmania University.

Earlier, he was appointed in the same position on 28 November 2016.

A senior professor in the Department of Physics, he has held several administrative positions. He was Officer on Special Duty to the VC; Dean (Development & UGC Affairs); Director, PG Admissions Directorate.

An able administrator, he headed the Department of Physics and was regional coordinator for AP SET, besides being the Vice Principal, PG College of Science, and Academic Coordinator of Science, Osmania University.

He has several published papers in reputed journals to his credit.

RUSA 2.0 SPURS INFRA, RESEARCH

NEW FACILITIES

With 30% of the grants earmarked for 'construction & equipment and creation of new facilities', the University plans to set up the following:

- OU Technology Business Incubator
- Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Studies
- Centre for Microbial and Fermentation Technology
- Centre for Cyber Security and Cyber Law
- Centre for Product Design, Development and Additive Manufacturing
- Centre for Telangana Studies
- Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Research Centre

UNIVERSITY LEVEL CENTRES

- Centre for Digital Education Technology
- Upgradation of Sahayam counselling centre
- Yoga Centre

MINI CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

University College of Science	3
University College of Arts & Social Sciences	2
University College of Engineering	1
University College of Technology	1
University College of Commerce & Business Mgmt	1
University College of Physical Education	1
University College of Law	1

Usha Kiran and Mounika Chithaluri

A string of new centres focused on research and outreach is set to come up at Osmania University, with the release of the first tranche of Rs. 16.6 crore out of the Rs. 107 crore grants under the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) (*National Higher Education Scheme*) 2.0.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) had cleared RUSA 2.0 funding to the University under two components: Component 4 dealing with quality and excellence in State universities carrying a financial outlay of Rs.100 crore; and Component 13 dealing with faculty improvement with an outlay of Rs. Seven crore. The Centre and the State would share the burden at a 60:40 ratio.

Several proposals for setting up new centres and for upgradation of existing facilities were fast-tracked for approval by the Board of Directors of OU Idea Labs Foundation, the special purpose vehicle to channelise the RUSA funds.

While 30 per cent of the proposed grant of Rs. 100 crore has been earmarked for setting up new centres of excellence, the remaining 70 per cent of would be utilised for quality enhancement and improvement in teaching and research.

Within the 30 per cent of grants earmarked for creation of new facilities, the OUILF board has decided to set up a Technology Business Incubator and six new Centres of Excellence. (Details are in the infographic above)

Besides these, it is proposed to convert 100 classrooms into technology -enabled classrooms; establish high performance computing facility; procure need-based equipment for Science, Engineering and Technology departments; undertake repairs and renovation of University Guest House; and construction of boundary wall for Tagore Auditorium, according to Prof. Sriram Venkatesh, Nodal Officer, RUSA2.0.

A new building to house the Human Resource Development Centre, along with repairs and renovation of the HRDC hostel, and training programmes would be taken up under component 13 – faculty improvement.

A sum of Rs. 15 crore will be used for activities under the Entrepreneurship and Employability Hub. The Technology Business Incubator and the Osmania University Placement Cell will take these tasks. Also, to facilitate interactions with international universities as envisaged under this component, the University plans to enter into collaborations with Universities of Pennsylvania and the University of California Berkeley in the area of 'educational innovation and accelerator'.

As directed by the MHRD, the execution of the RUSA 2.0 project at Osmania University is under the special purpose vehicle – OU Idea Labs Foundation (A registered Section 8 Company; CIN: , Regd. on 20 July 2016) for smooth and fast execution of the project objectives before 31 March 2020. Execution of RUSA 2.0 projects under OU Idea Labs Foundation has been approved by the Executive Council of Osmania University. ■

'Innovation, incubation, jobs are our priorities'

Former Vice Chancellor of Osmania University and Managing Director of OU Idea Labs Foundation, Prof. S. Ramachandram speaks about the implementation of RUSA 2.0 in this interview with Vaibhavi Acharya.

How is RUSA being implemented in Osmania University?

Happy to say that Osmania University is one among the top 10 universities to be awarded this scheme by the Central government. In line with the objectives of RUSA, we are establishing seven centres, and among them is the Technology Business Incubator. The Incubator will help those who want to take their ideas / research work to market as products or services.

In addition to that we are establishing centres for other disciplines as well. One such centre is for cyber security and cyber law. We are living in a digital world but at the same time the risk has also increased, so to protect the cyber infrastructure we must do more research in this direction and there is a lot of potential for employment and research.

What are the new centres being established?

Some of the centres that we have are Centre for Microbial Fermentation in Microbiology department, Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Studies, Centre for Telangana Studies, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Research Centre. In addition to these we are establishing sub-centres to these main centres to encourage students and teachers to create more quality research. If the research becomes an innovation, then it is taken to TBI. In these centres, we will be employing students on internship/post doctoral basis or doctoral fellowships.

In addition to all of these, we are planning to establish a Centre for Digital Educational Technologies to create quality content because online educational content has become the order of the day.

We are also setting up a Centre for High Performance Computing. In fact, we already have a data centre as part of this. The prime motto of this is to engage the students and faculty members in high-end research which requires the HPC facility.

What will be the role of students and faculty?

The prime focus of this project is to create an environment for the students and teachers to engage in quality education. Based on our strengths, we have planned and created these centres. Also through internships, it helps the students to choose whichever projects they want to do and helps them dive into the latest topics. This project helps to enable an environment for the faculty where they can do their research. This projects helps in terms of equipment, space and infrastructure.

Continued on Page 3

‘Tackling misinformation is the need of the hour’

Madhuri Kangul

“Debunking of misinformation is the need of hour,” said Pratik Sinha at a seminar on ‘Fake News’ at Osmania University. “Misinformation has serious consequences for the society.”

The seminar was jointly organised by the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication and the Indian Council for Social Science Research, ICSSR (SRC). Over 230 students from different colleges in Hyderabad attended.

The speakers Pratik Sinha, co-founder of AltNews.in, and U. Sudhakar Reddy, from The Times of India, were welcomed by the Head of the Department.

Pratik Sinha said he has a mission of travelling to different places, visiting several colleges to educate students about the right research required in today social media. The Editor and co-Founder of Alt News traced the journey of misinformation and pointed out that misinformation is reaching masses through apps like WhatsApp, YouTube, Facebook, etc.

He explained how the availability of smartphones at cheaper cost have increased the number of data (i.e., mobile internet) users in the country. After the launch of Jio, data has become affordable to the masses. Messages are sent in seconds from one place to another. People from remote areas with no digital literacy are becoming integral part of misinformation.

AltNews co-founder Pratik Sinha addresses the students.

Over 200 students from various degree colleges in the city as well as from Arts College participated in the seminar.

Misinformation is designed in such a way to touch emotional button of the people. Those who spread misinformation have their own money motives as there is a market for such content on social media videos and pictures related to current events gets more attention from masses, Sinha said.

Giving examples, he said: “A Malaysian woman was killed in Tamil Nadu under the influence rumours of child kidnapping. Innocent people are converted into criminals. Giving an example, he said a child kidnapping video that was made in Pakistan to create awareness for child kidnapping was edited to create child kidnapping rumour in India. Misinformation targets the minorities as in the case of this bit of fake news that a Hindu Marwadi woman was burnt for not wearing burqa by Muslims in Hyderabad. Another piece of fake news is one created by taking videos from some regional madarsa as of they are teaching ‘Islam is superior to Hinduism’. By debunking the video Alt News found that it was a madarsa in Meerut teaching Sanskrit shlokas.

Alt News found some websites like Chaskatimes.com, ViralinIndia.com which carry misinformation. Political parties benefits from them. There were instances where news from leading news channels were debunked.

U. Sudhakar Reddy said how viral news from social media are picked up by leading news channels and they break the gate keeping. He said it is misinformation and not fake news.

Mr. Reddy, also a Google News Certified Fact Checker and Trainer, explained the consumption of misinformation is more than the news from the mainstream media. Mainstream media has gatekeepers like editors, chief editors who filter the news, whereas social media does not have gatekeeping. Before consuming any information we should use common sense. A few questions should be asked like whether it is believable, or is it any kind of fiction. Debunking of such misinformation is very important. He said investing time in doing research whenever we come across any kind of unusual news is vital.

(Longer version of this story can be read on <ojcubs.in>)

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Photo exhibition marks Constitution Day

A public exhibition of rare photographs highlighting different aspects of the Indian Constitution was held for three days marking the Constitution Day on November 26th.

The expo, was organised by Regional Outreach Bureau of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, in association with Department of Journalism & Mass Communication, Osmania University.

Opening the exhibition to the public, Prof. Ch. Gopal Reddy, Registrar, OU, administered the Preamble of the Constitution as an oath to the students, faculty members and other participants who had gathered. He highlighted how the principles of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity form the foundation of India, and added that India is able to sustain itself as a democracy only on the strength of its Constitution.

Prof. D. Ravinder, Principal, Arts College, dwelt on the formative aspects of the Indian Constitution, pointing out how different components were inspired by the constitutions of other countries, and the key ideologues whose ideas are reflected in the final document of the Constitution.

Delivering the keynote address, Prof. K. Nageshwar cited an empirical study of 792 constitutions from across the world.

N. Spandana (MCJ, ‘18) receives prize for her essay

M Raghuram, former journalist and adviser, fondly remembered

Madhuri Kangul & Usha Kiran

A person of superior intellect, high morals and principles, a humanist with idealistic thinking, perceptive analyst and someone who was far ahead of his times. That was M Raghuram, an alumnus of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Osmania University, for his batchmates and friends, a magnetic personality who could engage in serious discussion. On his passing away due to kidney ailments, the Department lost a proud alumnus and the journalism fraternity a brilliant journalist and batchmates a misunderstood good friend.

Courier spoke to his batchmates about Raghuram who completed his BCJ and MCJ from Osmania University in the year 1977-78 . Later, he worked as Journalist for *Deccan Chronicle* till 1984 and quit the job after a tiff with the management not before dragging the management to court and winning the case.

Someone who never compromised, he declined the Governement’s offer of a plot in Jubilee Hills. He was a fearless nd bold journalist says Rammurthy, his batchmate and senior journalist.

S. Nagesh Kumar, former Resident Editor, *The Hindu*, recalled an instance in Delhi when they called on late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi while on educational tour and emergency was just revoked. M. Raghuram, in his own inimitable style asked her about Press freedom. Her reply became the lead story the next day in national newspapers. He always wanted to work for the betterment of the society.

Help Desk for SC/STs soon

D. Susan Rispa

Osmania University plans to create a Help Desk for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Teaching and non-teaching staff and students can reach out to the Help Desk on issues relating to denial of the constitutional rights and protection under SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act 1989.

The Desk will take up grievances and facilitate effective monitoring and implementation of reservation rules for SC/ST candidates in appointments and admissions. Also, it would receive feedback from candidates on hostel accommodation, scholarships, books and fellowships. People can access the Help Desk in charge. M.N. RamRaj through directorscstcell@osmania.ac.in

Centre for Digital Education Technology inaugurated

Osmania University has taken a firm first step into the world of digital education, initiating the setting up of a new state-of-the-art production centre on campus.

The Centre for Digital Education Technology (CDET), set up under RUSA 2.0, was inaugurated on 30 December by Prof. S. Ramachandram, Managing Director, OU Idea Labs Foundation.

The Centre marks a major shift in the teaching-learning process given the rapidly evolving education landscape, he observed.

Navin Mittal, Commissioner of Collegiate Education, Govt. of Telangana, who was the chief guest, suggested creation of MOOCs first for non-core papers to develop expertise and streamline processes internally, to be later followed by UGC-mandated courses.

The Centre has been conceived to leverage technology for education and promote use of digital content among students.

Further it is envisaged to design and execute skill and knowledge based courses based on felt needs using digital technologies among other objectives. It will soon webcast and web-host video lectures on various subjects once the technology is in place, said Prof. K.Stevenson, Director, Centre for Digital Education.

Prof. S. Ramachandram, MD, OU Idea Labs and former VC, unveils a plaque at the premises of Centre for Digial Education Technology on 30 December 2019.

Mr Navin Mittal, Commissioner of Collegiate Education, Government of Telangana, inaugurates the Centre for Digital Education Technology.

Women should excel on par with men: Governor

Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan asked women to strive to excel in all fields on a par with men. Speaking at the Convocation of OUCW, she urged the men to support the women in all her endeavours and to be their pillar of strength.

She reiterated that women should work hard to fulfil all their goals for the better of the society and the country. She quoted her own life experiences and also her recounted her childhood and college days and how she worked hard to be where she is today.

The governor felt that education, pursuit of new knowledge and achievements will enable women to achieve their goals. She also urged women to practice yoga for physical and mental health and she said women have an innate quality to achieve her goals once she sets her mid on it.

She presented 8 Gold medals to the meritorious students. A total of 709 students received their degrees on the occasion.

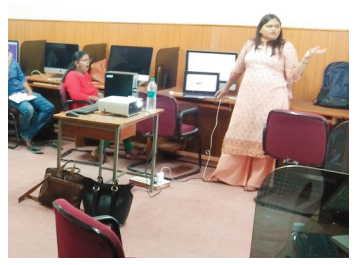
Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan, Governor of Telangana, pats a graduate at the Convocation

Continued from Page 1

What measures are in place to sustain these initiatives?

The project RUSA 2.0 might expire but we have planned to sustain these centres beyond this scheme. In the long run, a mutually beneficial relationship between the industry and the institution will help in sustaining these centres. ■

Google workshop on fact-checking for budding journalists



R. Sai Meghana

With a view to empowering students to deal with the surfeit of fake news in mainstream and social media, the Department of Journalism & Mass Communication, Osmania University, has organized a four day workshop on "Fact checking and verification" which commenced here today at the Department.

Ms. Geetika Rustagi, Google News Labs Teaching fellow, briefed the students about the tools required for a fact checker, and also showed case studies of misinformation. Rustagi drew a distinction between text, image and video misinformation and shared tips and hacks on a smart search. She also informed students as to how Google and its various services can be useful when it comes to unraveling the truth behind viral incidents.

Usha Kiran, a student, stated that the session was very informative and pointed out that it was a good opportunity facilitated by the Department. Over 25 students from the first year of MA attended the first day's session. The second session to be held on 26 November will focus on Data journalism and Data Visualisation.

Prof. V. Usha Kiran is ICSSR-SRC chief

Dr. V. Usha Kiran has been appointed as Honorary Director of Indian Council of Social Science Research - Southern Regional Centre (ICSSR-SRC), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

A professor in the Dept. of Commerce, she also serves as a Director (placement services), and as a coordinator, UGC - UPE- Bureau of Human Resources, placement & training centre.

Education prof bags ICSSR Sr Fellowship

The Indian Council for Social Science Research, Ministry of Human Resource and Development, Govt. of India, New Delhi has awarded ICSSR Senior Fellowship to Prof. Padala Prasad, Formerly Dean, Faculty of Education, OU and UGC Emeritus Fellow of Education, Osmania University for 2019-20 to work on "Innovation and Intervention for the welfare of Senior Citizens - A case study of Telangana".

National meet stresses on constitutional morality

Neeharika Malladi

Shrikrishna S. Mahajan, Professor in Business Management, Shivaji University, underscored the need to maintain constitutional morality to combat concentration of wealth, power and orthodox cultural religious practices

Delivering the key note address at the two-day national conference on Dr. BR. Ambedkar and Social Justice: Retrospective and Prospective outlook, at Osmania University Centre for International Programmes, he said, recent reports indicate that one percent of the families holds 73 per cent of the national income. The Human Development report on "Multidimensional Poverty in 2016," indicates that 55 per cent of India continues to live in poverty, he said and added that his study on employment found that employment in the organized sector has dipped while it spiked in the unorganized sector from 1991 onwards.

Citing views of Ambedkar on the caste system as noted in his book " Annihilation of Caste, " Prof. Mahajan, described caste as a building with four floors with no access to other floors. The seventy years of the Indian Constitution coincides with the centenary year of Dr. Ambedkar's entry into public life, he pointed out.

Prof. Shrikrishna S. Mahajan

Recalling that Osmania University was the first to confer the honorary doctorate to Dr. B R Ambedkar, he lauded the efforts of the University to carry on his legacy by naming the University main library after Dr. Ambedkar.

'RECENT REPORTS SHOW THAT ONE PER CENT FAMILIES HOLD 73 PER CENT OF THE NATIONAL INCOME.'

Former OU Vice Chancellor, Prof. S Ramachandram, announced that the Dr. B.R Ambedkar Research Center was set up under the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) 2.0, Ministry of Human Resource Development, as also the new Centre for Digital Educational Technologies.

Prof. R.Limbadri, Vice Chairman, Telangana State Council of Higher Education, remarked that the Indian constitution has now become synonymous with Dr. BR Ambedkar. The common man is the central focus of the Constitution, he added

Prof. T.Krishna Rao, Director, Dr. B.R Ambedkar Research Center, stated that Dr. Ambedkar provided constitutional morality to delegitimize traditional religious practices that exploited vulnerable sections of the society for several years. Several faculty members, research scholars, students and non teaching staff attend the inaugural of the conference.

'Centenary' Vice Chancellor Prof. Ramachandram retires

Senior officials of the University with Prof. Ramachandram on 31 December 2019.

Prof. S. Ramachandram, former Vice-Chancellor, Osmania University envisioned a bright future for the University today this afternoon. Responding to felicitation on his superannuation, he observed that the University had risen in stature during the past couple of years and had the potential to scale further peaks of excellence. He observed that he enjoyed working with the "excellent team" he had point in place to usher in reforms, conduct of the Osmania University Centenary Celebrations, work towards getting NAAC A+ Grade etc.

Prof. Yadava Raju, Member Secretary, TS-SET and Professor of English, OU who also retired, said that the University always had something to give to people and when they retire they have learnt a lot and acquired wisdom.

Ealier, Prof. Ch. Gopal Reddy, Registrar, Prof. T. Krishna Rao, OSD to Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Battu Satyanarayana, former President, OU Teachers' Association, Prof. B. Manohar, President, OU Teachers' Association, Prof. K. Pratap Reddy, Principal, University College of Science, Prof. D. Ravinder, Principal, University College of Arts & Social Sciences, Prof. Shivraj, Dean, Development & UGC Affairs, Prof. K. Stevenson, Director, University Press & Publications, Deans, Principals, Directors, OUTA members and other Faculty members, Smt. V. Annapurna, Finance Officer, Sri Chandrasekhar Potdar, Joint Registrar, (Administration), Sri R. Ramchander, Joint Registrar (Accounts) and other University Officials spoke on this occasion. -- *Courier Bureau*

Attendance issues dominate Festival of Ideas meet

Disabling wifi in hostels during college hours, disallowing students with low attendance from appearing for exams were just a couple of suggestions made by students to improve class presence of students

At a meeting of Festival of Ideas in Arts College, under the convenorship of Dr. Varija rani, near about 60 students representing their respective classes and some individuals favoured the emergence of a "friendly campus" with a conductive academic atmosphere

Citing English language handicap in comprehending lectures, students wanted bilingual teaching and grading of attendance on par with the project and linking with the mess facility. Mess timings ought to be regulated and the library should be closed in the forenoon when students attend classes. They cited that outsiders throng the main library and it was becoming increasingly difficult for regular / genuine students to find a seat

They urged the college authorities to supplement their efforts to prepare for competitive exams and strengthen their soft skills so as to ensure greater participation of students in the classroom. They exhorted leaders of student organisations not to intervene with the positive steps of the authorities with regard to academics.

Periodic display of attendance, setting up of discussion groups/ clubs would help they felt. Another pointer was that the college should organize separate induction/orientation classes department wise to create awareness about career opportunities

Prof. D.Ravinder, Principal Arts College, Prof.K.Narender, Director, EMMRC, Prof. C. Murali Krishna, Head, Department of English and Prof. B. Vijaya, Vice Principal, Arts college and Dr. P.Varija Rani, Convenor, were present.

Courier Bureau

Mixed response to biometric system

Neeharika Malladi

The University initiative to introduce biometric attendance has evoked a mixed response from the students.

A quick Courier survey captured the reactions of students in Arts College. "Though it is a coercive measure, I am actually happy about it as it will help the university in resuming its former glory and will also help Osmania in having the same standards as any other university," says a senior student of mass communication. This view was echoed by several others from other departments.

Having rigid rules might affect those preparing for competitive exams and undergoing coaching. Given the paucity of jobs, this will hamper our prospects, shares a senior expressing his disappointment.

The biometric devices have been placed in all the departments and the students are expected to log in through it three times a day to register attendance. The system has been introduced to strengthen the academic atmosphere and ensure classroom attendance so that the learning outcomes can be achieved.

Prof. Kishan takes over as Member Secy of TSSET

Prof. Naikoti Kishan has been appointed as Member Secretary, TSSET. He has been the DIrector, PG Admissions. A senior Faculty in the Department of Mathematics, Osmania University. Naikoti does research in Fluid Dynamics and Applied Mathematics.

Distance Education admissions open till Feb 28

Admission for UG and diploma courses offered by Prof G Ram Reddy Centre for Distance Education, Osmania University, for academic year 2019-20 has started from January 1, 2020.

As part of UGC guidelines, admissions offered by Centre for Distance Education, OU, have to be made in two spells. The first phase is to be taken up between July 1 and August 30 every year, while the second between January 2 and February 28.

Candidates are advised to complete their admission process before February 28, 2020. Details of courses, rules and regulations, admission process and fee structure for various courses are available on www.oucde.net. The information brochure and application form for admission can be accessed by logging into the website, and candidates have to apply online for admissions. All payments such as registration fee, course fee and examination fee should be made online only through www.oucde.net.

తెలుగు శాఖ సమ్మేళనంలో కవయిత్రులకు పెద్ద పీట

ఉస్మానియా విశ్వవిద్యాలయం తెలుగు శాఖ శతాబ్ది సంబరాల సందర్భంగా కవయిత్రుల కవితాగానం కార్యక్రమం నిర్వహించబడింది. సెంటర్ ఫర్ విమెన్స్ స్టడీస్ వారి సౌజన్యంతో ఆర్ట్స్ కళాశాలలో నిర్వహించిన ఈ కార్యక్రమానికి ప్రొఫెసర్ సూర్యా ధనంజయ గారు అధ్యక్షత వహించగా తెలుగు శాఖ మాజీ అధ్యక్షులు ప్రొఫెసర్ సుమతి నరేంద్ర గారు ముఖ్య అతిథిగా హాజరయ్యారు.

ఇప్పటి వరకు నిర్వహించిన తెలుగు శాఖ సాహితీ సమావేశాలలో కవయిత్రుల కేసం నిర్వహించిన మొదటి సమావేశం ఇదే. ఈ కార్యక్రమంలో మహిళలపై జరుగుతున్న అకృత్యాలను అన్యాయాలను ప్రతిబింబించే కవిత్వాన్ని వినిపించారని విశ్రాంత అచార్యులు ప్రొఫెసర్ సుమతి నరేంద్ర గారు కొనియాడారు. డా. సి. కాసేం గారు మాట్లాడుతూ మహిళా చైతన్యం కేసం కదిలించే వెంటాడే కవిత్వాన్ని రాయాలన్నారు. మహిళలు కవిత్వంతో పాటు అన్ని రంగాల్లో రాణించాలని తెలుగు శాఖాధిపతి ప్రొఫెసర్ సూర్యా ధనంజయ్ గారు సూచించారు.

ఇటీవలి కాలంలో స్త్రీవాద సాహిత్యంపై పరిశోధనలు రావడం గర్వించదగిన విషయమని పరిశోధకులను ప్రశంసించారు. ఇదే ఉత్సాహంతో భవిష్యత్తులో మరిన్ని పరిశోధనలు రావాలని, ఇలాంటి కవయిత్రుల సమ్మేళనాలు ఇంకా అనేకం జరగాలని ఆకాంక్షించారు.

ఈ కార్యక్రమంలో శిలాలోలిత, గేగు శ్యామల, మెర్సీ మార్గరెట్, జ్వలిత, శ్రీలక్ష్మి, నాంపల్లి సుజాత, శశి శ్రీ కడలి, ఉషా రాణి, డా. వారిజా రాణి, డా. పల్లె విజయ లక్ష్మి తదితరులు పాల్గొన్నారు.

ప్రమాదం రేకెత్తించే ప్రశ్నలు

ఎస్. క్రాంతి కుమార్

గచ్చిబౌలి సమీపంలో ఇటీవల ప్రారంభమైన బయో డైవర్సిటి ఫ్లై ఓవర్ పై ఘోర రోడ్డుప్రమాదం జరిగింది.కారు వేగంగా వచ్చి అదుపుతప్పి ఫ్లై ఓవర్ క్రింద ఆటో కేసం వేచి ఉన్న సత్యవతి అనే 40 ఏళ్ల మహిళ పై పడగా ఆమె అక్కడిక్కడే ప్రాణాలను కోల్పోయింది ఘటన స్థలం లో ఉన్న మిగతా బాధితులు స్వల్ప గాయాలతో బయటపడ్డారు.ప్రమాధం జరిగిన స్థలాన్ని సైబరాబాద్ పోలీసు కమిషనర్ వి.సి.సజ్జనర్ సందర్శించి ప్రమాదం జరిగిన తీరును అడిగి తెలుసుకున్నారు.ఈ ఘటన పై కే. టీ.అర్ స్పందించి " ఫ్లైఓవర్ నీ తాత్కాలికంగా మూసి వేసి దీనిపై ఒక కమిటీ వేస్తునం ప్రమాధం జరగడానికి దారితీసిన అంశాల గురించి పరిశీలించాల్సిన అవసరం ఉందని తెలిపారు.

ఫ్లై ఓవర్ ప్రారంభించిన కొద్దిరోజులకే, అది కూడా ఓకే వారంలో వరుసగా రెండో ప్రమాదం జరిగిన తీరు నగర వాసులని ఆందోళనకు గురిచేస్తోంది. **ప్రమాదానికి ఓవర్ స్పీడే కారణమా? లేక రోడ్డు డిజైనింగ్ లో ఏమైనా లోపాలున్నాయా అని ప్రజల నుండి వివిధ అభిప్రాయాలు వ్యక్తమవుతున్నాయి.**

ఫ్లైఓవర్ నీ ఇంత ప్రమాదకర మలుపు (curve) lo నిర్మిస్తారా,అంతా కర్వ్ ఉన్న మార్గం లో కనీసం స్పీడు బ్రేకర్లు పెట్టాల్సి ఉండేది,అసలు కర్వ్ లో ఉన్న రోడ్ మార్గం కాస్త వంపు ఉండాల్సింది. ప్రభుత్వం తమ ఇష్టారాజ్యంగా నిర్మించి.ట్రైయల్స్ లేకుండా ట్రాఫిక్ క్లియరెన్స్ ఇచ్చారు అని ,అక్కడ స్ట్రెయిట్ గా ఉన్న అలైన్మెంట్ కి సరిపడా భూమి ఉన్న సరే దాన్ని వదిలేసి మరి అంత మలుపు తో ఎందుకు డిజైన్ చేయాల్సి వచ్చింది అని, మరి కొంత మంది ,ఆరోజ రోడ్డుపై వాహనాల రద్దీ తక్కువ ఉండడం తో హై స్పీడ్ తో వచ్చిన డ్రైవర్ తప్పిదం వల్లే ఇదంతా జరిగిందని తమ అభప్రాయాలను తెలియజేస్తునారు.

సైబరాబాద్ పోలీస్ కమిషనర్ వి సి సజ్జనార్

ఇది ముమ్మాటికీ డ్రైవర్ నిర్లక్ష్యం వల్లే జరిగింది. జీపీఎస్, వెహికిల్ ట్రాకింగ్ సిస్టమ్ ద్వారా మేం తెలుసుకున్న సమాచారం ప్రకారం ప్రమాదం జరిగేముందు 40 kmph వెళ్లాల్సిన కారు 104 kmph వెళ్ళడం వల్ల ఇది సంభవించిందని ,అలాగే రోడ్డు ట్రాఫిక్ రూల్స్ పాటించకుండా పోయిన వారం ఫ్లైఓవర్ పైన సెల్ఫీ లు తీసుకుంటున్న ఇద్దర్ని ఆటుగా వచ్చిన కారు ఢీ కొనడంతో మరణించారని ,ఇకపై అయన ట్రాఫిక్ రూల్స్ పాటించమని, ఎవరు వాటిని అతిక్రమించవద్దని కోరారు,

ప్రొఫెసర్ కుమార్ మొలుగారం, ప్రిన్సిపల్, ఉస్మానియా యూనివర్సిటీ కాలేజీ అఫ్ ఇంజనీరింగ్

రోడ్డు నిర్మాణం లో మరి పెద్దగా లోపాలు ఏమి లేవు గాని ఇక్కడ ప్రమాదం జరగడానికి ముఖ్యంగా 2 కారణాలు చెప్పుకోవచ్చు

1)ఓవర్ స్పీడ్

2) ప్రజలకు తెలియజేయకపోవడం (లాక్ ఆఫ్ అవరెనేస్)

వీటిని కంట్రోల్ చేయాలంటే

-స్పీడ్ లిమిట్ బోర్డ్ లను ఎక్కువగా పెట్టాలి

- ఎవరి వాహనం అయితే వేగం తో వెళ్తుందో పోలీస్ కంట్రోల్ రూం నుండి మానిటర్ చేసి ఆటోమాటిక్ సిస్టమ్ ద్వారా , అప్పటికప్పుడు హెవీ పెనలిటీస్ వేయడం.

- కర్వ్స్ ఉన్న మొత్తం ఫ్లేస్ లో విడ్త్ అంతా ' rumble strips ' వేయించాలి

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- స్కూల్ స్టేజ్ నుండే పాఠ్యాంశాలలో ట్రాఫిక్, ట్రాన్స్పోర్టేషన్ ల పై ఒక యూనిట్ నీ కేటాయించాలి.

- అడ్వర్టైజ్మెంట్ చేస్తూ అవేర్నెస్ తీసుకురావాలి.

Fire safety upgrade for Exam branch

Neeharika Malladi

The Examination branch, Osmania University, after successfully implementing the online evaluation system has now installed a new firefighting system and has undertaken refurbishing work on its premises.

Speaking to Courier, Prof. Sriram Venkatesh, Controller of Examination, stated that the new fire euipment worth Rs 8 lakh has been put in place. It can operate in automatic and manual mode. The equipment has a fire extinguisher and an alarm system. Once the alarm sets off due to activation of the sensors, due to smoke/ spark or short circuit , the extinguisher automatically releases the fire dousing gases. All this happens in seconds, he explained.

Prof. S. Ramachandram, former VC, inaugurated the refurbished Confidential section which will operate from the adjacent portion of the present building with separate cubicles for staff and faculty who come for examination work.

The toilets for staff members and officials have been given a makeover with new bathroom fittings. The work has been undertaken following representations from the staff as the fittings were almost a decade old. The front and the inner premises are also being spruced up with greenery, he stated. ■

Condolences

Prof. V. Ramakistayya, former Vice Chancellor of Osmania University, passed away on 22 November 2019. Senior faculty members expressed condolences and recalled his contribution to streamlining the functioning of the University and to the setting up of four interdisciplinary centres of excellence. Prof. Ramakistayya also served as the chairperson of the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission.

Two new advanced centres get going at Arts College

Mounika Chithaluri

Two research centres set up under the RUSA grants were formally inaugurated in Arts College by the former Vice chancellor, Prof. S.Ramachandram.

He expressed happiness over the fruition of RUSA 2.0 which he described as a result of a collective effort. He urged the students and faculty to work for the two centres and ensure that we transition to RUSA 3.0. The education sector is facing challenges, and it is time for faculty to perform or perish, he said.

In the context of digital education, he emphasised that the University has to embrace new technologies and strengthen the teaching learning process

The two centres – CenTRA and Advanced Centre for Social Sciences -- received the nod of the Board of Directors of RUSA 2.0. ACSS aims to be a nodal point for social science research in Telangana, besides upgrading the counselling lab and the television studio. Centra will focus on language competencies and developing scripts.

Prof. Ch. Gopal Reddy, Registrar, lauded the efforts of the former Vice chancellor for getting the RUSA funds and his initiatives to digitize several areas of operation of the University. Prof. D.Ravinder, Arts College Principal, listed the various contributions of Prof. Ramachandram and the initiatives in Arts College, especially the work of the Academic Research Committee and meetings with the student representatives.

Prof. A. Karunakar, Dean, Faculty of Arts urged the officials to take steps to strengthen classroom teaching. Prof. T. Krishna Rao, OSD to VC, appreciated Prof. Ramachandram for his single minded devotion for the University uplift.

International students seek mess in hostel

Hafizur Rahman

Osmania University's international students are seeking a mess in their hostel at Tarnaka, which provides accommodation to 89 students from 19 countries. Courier spoke to Alembrahan Assefa, a Ph.D. scholar from Ethiopia, who said, "This place is safe, neat and also cost-efficient for students. When I first came here, this place was not maintained properly but 2018 onwards this place has got CCTV surveillance, everyday cleaning and tightened security. Also, there are some vacant rooms, where the authority can run a mess. If they run this, it will be good for students and enable them to concentrate more on their study and they can spend more time on cultural exchange".

Md. Sabbir, pursuing Bachelor's in Fine Arts, said: "The hostel is a suitable place for making new friends from another country. When I was in Bangladesh, I had a negative conception about people from some countries. But after coming here, I met some amazing people from that country, with whom we spend most of the time."

ISH has students from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Turkmenistan, Sudan, Yemen, Ethiopia, Palestine, Jordan, Tajikistan, Nigeria, Cameroon, Djibouti, Angola, Indonesia, Iran, Malawi, Rwanda, Somalia, and Syria. "Living here is like traveling to different countries," remarked Abdul Waris Khorram, an Afghan student of PG College Secunderabad.

Fund crunch hits sports

Rajesh Malothu

Lack of funds is impeding the growth of sports in the university, says Dr. Sunil Kumar, secretary, Board of Control, Inter University Tournaments, Osmania University.

"The Department of Physical Education is handicapped due to inadequate funds. For example, sports spend used to be Rs 95 lakh. This year, it is only Rs 70 lakh, he said. Stressing on inflation and price rise, Dr. Kumar said: "A ball would cost Rs 300 in 2012. Now it's more than Rs 700." The professor called for an "improved regular budget."

"There is also a need for coaches in at least 20 events. This helps students to practice regularly. Increased funds help in students' supplements and nutrition. We need more manpower for running sports related activities," he said.

24-hour patrolling, 125 CCTV cameras to enhance campus safety

Papa Goud M.

Security has been tightened around the campus with installation of 125 CCTV cameras and round-the-clock monitoring.

According to Sriram Anjaiah, chief security officer, Osmania University, patrolling has been expanded to cover the entire campus to allay fears of the students. "24 permanent staff patrol the campus over three shifts in a day, each shift lasting eight hours," he explained.

Following the incident of an intruder into the Ladies' hostel, the strength of the women securit personnel has been increased.

"Even heavy vehicles have been stopped from entering the campus. Huge boards have been erected at the entrance with a notice that private vehicles will not be allowed inside."

Several shops operating without permission around the NCC gate were also closed. Mr. Anjaiah, who did his M.A. in Public Administration from Arts College, said students can reach him on 040-27682426.

Campus undergoes a green makeover

Neeharika Malladi

The dry patch around the fountain in front of the Arts College is all alive now, with a fresh, green look. Not just at the Arts College, the landscape of the University is slowly undergoing a makeover with rows of saplings being planted all along the main road and in some long-neglected spots like the 75th Anniversary pilon between the Arts and the Law Colleges.

All this is thanks to the intervention of Arvind Kumar, In-charge Vice Chancellor and also Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration & Urban Development.

Unlike the occasional plantation drives, the greenery initiative seems to have given some thought about sustaining the plants beyond the initial period. New waterlines have been laid even as borders are being earmarked with special plants.

The idea was conceived by former Vice Chancellor, Prof. S. Ramachandram, which led to the maintenance of the lawns in front of Arts College being outsourced, with funds drawn from the Examination Branch.

The last major green drive on campus was in 1986 under Project Green Belt, when over 1,000 acres of land had been planted with trees.

Stress on Big Data for sustainable farming

R. Sai Meghana

That Big Data could play a crucial role to empower the farming community and augment food sustainability was reiterated at the two-day Big Data in Agriculture Convention 2019 here at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) here recently.

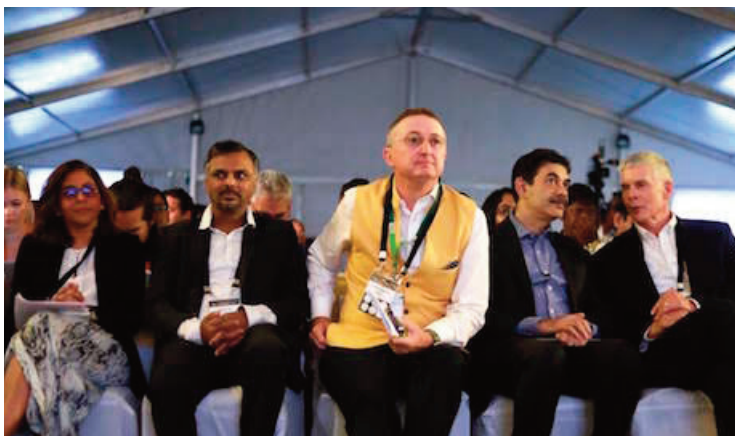
Organised under the theme "Trust," the meet aimed at bridging the gap between humans, machines and ecosystems which includes practices such as digital agriculture, smart monitoring and disease detection and cure, all under one roof with the primary goal of food sustainability.

The conference had many sub events from digital agriculture to working models' display.

Digital Agriculture has always been given importance as a Platform for Big Data in Agriculture to involve youth across the globe to take up farming, agro business or agritech. Youth could leverage simple technologies for digital agriculture which includes detection and cure of plant diseases, collecting of data and estimation of water levels, spraying and control of pesticide and several other important related aspects.

Youth in Data invites youth for the two day workshop to play the role of media delegates for the convention filled with info-tainment. The delegates are invited to learn, socialise, meet experts, interview them, use social media and create more opportunities for themselves and agriculture with their innovative ideas.

Inspire challenge, a prelude to the convention, explored innovative solutions to food sustainability issues around the globe using Big Data and other technologies . The challenge was structured to encourage students, start ups and corporates to identify a problem and evolve solutions in terms of big data and agriculture that would mark a ground breaking change in the spectrum of digital agriculture.



Peter Carbarry, director, ICRISAT (centre) with delegates at the conference.

Delegates cutting across various occupations from across the globe participated and shared their experiences link digital technologies to impact in developing economies. For instance, one project focused on collecting data for estimation of underground water levels , spraying and controlling of pesticides

The best project on "Real-time East Africa live groundwater use database" was given an award in addition to three more for implementing the ideas. The East African Project focused on low-cost solar pumps to increase productivity and also help farmers by assessing the ground water levels. The network of solar pumps developed by Futurepump into IoT devices linked to an open, online water information platform at IWMI would plug information gaps.

The system would then be able to provide real-time information on water withdrawal, area irrigated, and energy use. In simpler words, put by the contestants themselves, "Ground water hasn't been explored fully. Information from the solar pumps can be used for setting up better sustainable policies for the ground water level."

Medha Devare, Senior Research Fellow & Module Lead, CGIAR Big Data for Agriculture, said, "In terms of data, Trust is a multilayered entity, and building trust among the data sharers and data consumers is a key element in any sector."

A combination of such components has made CGIAR's Platform for Big Data in Agriculture a success. Trust, also had interesting events like Industry expert speeches, Innovations bazaar, Q&A with industry experts, 50+ structured sessions and scope for networking. All of which were jointly organized by the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) at the instance of the CGIAR.

'Work on TS biodiversity database under way in OU'

R. Sai Meghana

The Centre for Biodiversity, under RUSA 2.0 aims to compile a comprehensive database of all the living organisms in Telangana and provide inputs for policy making, according to Centre Director Chelmela Srinivasulu.

Speaking to Courier, he said that the initiative was launched 10-15 years ago to make information readily available. "Documenting and mapping biodiversity in districts would help in finding out the hotspots of biodiversity and whether they are in alignment with the existing protected area networks - national parks and wild life sanctuaries, he said and added that documenting biological diversities outside protected areas is challenging and people have not focused on it.

"We will take a report on anything and everything that is living in Telangana even if common people report it", says Dr. Chelmala Srinivasulu. His team has started a citizen science program with an online portal available for students to upload pictures of any living species' for identification and are recorded forever in digital form including the name, scientific name of the species and the geo location of where it was spotted. This is labelled as BoTS - Biodiversity of Telangana State and is available for life sciences students of government colleges.

Giving further details, Dr. Srinivasulu said, the Government of India, through the biodiversity rules 2004, has mandated that every village has to constitute a biodiversity monitoring committee at village level and they have to prepare a registry at village level specifying the exact number of trees, animals or birds which live in that par-

ticular village. Prior permissions from the village, biodiversity headquarters, Hyderabad need to be taken to access those species for research or other purposes. By doing so, the ownership and safeguarding of those species is given to the villages to curb illegal activities such a smuggling.

"We have gone past the stage where we don't think that biodiversity is important to citizenry". So, the team has to step in and explain the linkage between climate change- droughts, unseasonal rains, and biodiversity."

The twin cities having 100-150 air quality index (AQI) is facing clear changes in the climate and is on the way of becoming what Delhi is presently with 300-350 AQI. This is not only because the city is growing, but also because we are not paying attention towards green lungs that the city needs. The city and its administrators need to start investing in green lungs because it is a fact that by 2050 about 70% of population will start living in cities.

Osmania University, the largest green lung, has witnessed a downside and the Centre is seeking solutions to such climate changes backed by evidence to be disseminated to the common public, he said.

IN FIRST PERSON

An academic who caught 800 snakes

S. Ramya Sri

A biodiversity buff, an academic with an unusual interest. Meet Dr. Chelmela Srinivasulu, Head, Department of Zoology, who revels in catching snakes.

"I'm passionate about slithering animals, I've caught my first snake when I was hardly 12 years old. As a student, I had the opportunity to publish many research papers on snakes. I've rescued 800 snakes till date, including the ones on campus. It gives me immense pleasure and satisfaction which I call 'PRANI RAKSHA'.

As the HoD of the Dept. of Zoology, I've campaigned on the awareness of protecting other species and urged people to report it to us in case they encounter a snake. I once stumbled upon a king cobra encountered at the Chemistry department. I rescued the snake but had no snake bag, thongs or snake hooks to arrest its movements. The cement bag got untwisted with the blowing wind, I could feel the snake hitting the roof of the bag to release itself. I just threw the bag away for the snake to escape. It was an escape for me too.

A python was recently killed at the college of technology. So far, I have recorded eight snake species in OU. Four of these were venomous - Russells viper, king cobra, rattle snake and common Krait. The last one's is now rare to find. Keel back, chequered keel back, bronze keel back, green Vine snake and sand boa amongst the non toxic ones.

In the last five years, I ve rescued a 250 plus snakes and recorded three snake deaths.

Snake catching is always risky. Often times these are found in places unkept where there's no reach of light. Some rescues are smooth if the snake is docile; but most of the times it's difficult. Snake catching requires patience. It depends on the composure of the snake catcher and the environmental factors. Things are unpredictable. Every rescue mission could probably be the 'last' one.

Meet the Bat Man of Osmania

Dr. Srinivasulu's other interests include bats. "An accidental visit to a zoo in Bihar drew me to work for unsung lifeforms -- bats", he says. The portrait of a 'bat' in his office is his version of the 'Miss World.'

"People often ask me why I am interested in trivial animals. The answer is simple: I choose the ignored ones. In India, there are more tiger experts compared to the number of tigers. I worked on tigers and published papers. Contrarily, there are 140 species of bats reported in South Asia in 1998 and there ain't half of the number of bat specialists in India. Now, that's a huge difference. Since 2000, I embarked on Chiropterology (the study of bats) and we're now a recognised 'bat lab.' I can proudly say that I am the only 'Batman in India.' I also belong in to the 'Bat Specialists Group' (BSG) which is a global platform for Chiroptereans."

Nationwide protests echo in Osmania

The nationwide stir against and for the Citizenship Amendment Act(CAA) National Register of Citizens (NRC), National Population Register (NPR) and violence in the Jawaharlal Nehru University found echo on the Osmania University campus

Student activists pro and anti have been taking out rallies, organizing meetings, candle light sit ins, human chains in front of the historic Arts College building ever since the issues erupted on the national scene. Students on campus and adjacent English and Foreign Language University are divided over the issues and fiercely argue their point of view.

True to the character of a University which should generate ideas, engage in critical thinking and serve as a platform for exchange of information, Osmania University has a history of being politically active from the Vandemataram movement, the 1969 Telangana agitation, the stir on reservations, and the recent struggle for a separate State of

Telangana. Several politicians at the national and the regional level have had their baptism into politics here on the campus.

On politics in Universities, students have mixed reactions. " Universities are meant for pursuit of academic pursuits and that should be the sole motive of students joining academics ," says a Master's student in Literature from EFLU. While several others concur with this view, another viewpoint is that when contentious issues are debated students get embroiled in politics with divergent ideologies.The nationwide stir against and for the Citizenship Amendment Act(CAA) National Registry of Citizens (NRC), National Population Register (NPR) and violence in the Jawaharlal Nehru University found echo on the Osmania University campus

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COURIER BUREAU

IN BRIEF

BROCHURE ON FOOD TECH RELEASED

A conference brochure on Current Research and Approaches in Food Technology 2020 (CRAFT 2020) was released recently by Prof. R. Shyam Sunder, Principal, University College of Technology, in the presence of conference convenor Srinivas Maloo, Dean (Pharmacy) Prof. Kavita Waghray, Head (Chemical Engg) Prof. V.V. Basava Rao, Vice Principal Prof. V. Ramesh Kumar, coconvenor V. Bhaskar and Dr. Srinu Naik, Dr. P. Lakshma Reddy, Dr. A. Parashuram were present.

NORTH-SOUTH IMBALANCES

Department of Law, Osmania University, has organised a two-day international conference on North-South Imbalances: Global Perspectives and Challenges in commemoration of the honour of D.Litt. by Osmania University to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Prof. G. Vinod Kumar, Head, Department of Law, was the Convenor of the conference, which was supported by ICSSR Southern Regional Centre and UPE.

ADVANCES IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

The International Conference on Recent Advances in Chemical Engineering (RACE 2020) was organized on 8th & 9th January 2020 by the Department of Chemical Engineering, UCT, OU in association with IIChE-HRC. This conference aimed at providing a platform for novel and fundamental advances in the fields of Chemical Engineering for academicians, research scholars, students, scientists and industrialists . Further, it sought to gain insight into future trends and share knowledge on technology options and strategies.

CHEMICAL ENGINEERS REUNITE

A reunion of Chemical Engineering batches of 1968 &1969 belonging to College of Technology, Osmania University, was held at Pragati Resorts from January 21 to 23. Some of the members were accompanied by their spouses. It was a memorable time as some of them were meeting after 50 years. The members decided to assist the college for its development after holding discussions with the Principal. Also the students could be helped in skill development for better employability, they observed. It was also decided to have such get-togethers more frequently.

Sad story, told subtly

Chhapaak portrays the role of an acid-attack survivor Laxmi Agarwal, an invincible lady who has changed the perception and definition of beauty and life.

The movie shot into limelight following the visit of it protagonist, Deepika Padukone to the violence rocked JNU and stood by the victim .The commendable aspect about well-known script is the concept of surviving a major acid attack and eventually weakening the strength of the victim unimaginably.

A scene from the movie 'Chhapaak'

REVIEW

The audience may not be able to predict the theme of the movie until theend as one might think there would be a huge outcry when the protagonist is heinously attacked.

But the director, Meghna Gulzar deals with the script more subtly at a slow pace and does not make it mundane like any other biographies. She highlights those scenes which make an impact on the audience.

Coming to the performances, Deepika Padukone nailed the role as she slips into the character of Laxmi. Madhurjeet Sarghi as Archana Bajaj, a supreme court lawyer holds the key in bringing the culprits to book and gaining approval for regulating acid sales.

"Lootera" actor Vikrant Massey as Alok Dixit who runs an NGO against acid attacks on minor girls with the slogan "STOP ACID ATTACKS" where Laxmi was part of it. She filed the PIL against acid selling and eentually, both fall into love because of similar thoughts. Though he quintessentially fits in the character, he does not make a big impact. The takeaways of the movie-Deepika as Malathi, the concept and music.

The Director succeeds in showcasing the spirit and strength of Laxmi Agarwal despite traumatic situations though Malathi's character fails to engage the audience till the last frame.

Cast: Deepika Padukone, Vikrant Massey, Vishal Dahiya, Madhurjeet Sarghi, Ankit Bisht, Pallavi Batra.

Written by Atika Chohan and Meghna Gulzar

Directed by Meghna Gulzar

Mounika Chithaluri

Celebrating THE MAGIC of the CELLAR

S. Ramya Sri

Good spread of food, spirited response, excellent camaraderie, glittering lights, shrieks of joy sum up the ambience at the third Osmania Journalism Alumni Reunion at Deccan Club on 22 December evening

Even as the clock struck 6.00, the registration counter got busy with a steady flow of alumni picking up their badges and entering the club premises. The gala evening kick started at around 7. 30 pm with the 200 strong members observing a two minute silence for the illustrious alumni who passed away- Jaipal Reddy former Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and M.Raghuram, senior journalist

With no speeches, except for an appeal to all to interact with each other, the catchline RE-UNITE - REMINISCE-REKINDLE was manifest at the event as alumni from various batches down the years, caught up with their batchmates and it was a nostalgic trip down memory lane. They came in different sizes, shapes some with salt and pepper beard and hair do, some with a coating of coloured hair concealing their age and some bald. The LED wall screened the evolution of the Department in pics, the previous issues of Osmania Courier, the cartoons made out of pics from the previous reunion

True to the tagline Oja Dhoom Machade, Oja Ke masti mein Khoja, members spread out into the lawns and the night came alive. One could witness brisk business at the bar counter with the two plus one offer people silently pick up their favourite drinks and gallivanting to a table with their pals of previous years. Wetting their throats, some became indulgent in their talk. Entry of a new member evoke a loud shots and big hugs.

Mobile phones were put to full use as groups posed for pictures wherever they were and on the podium with the flexi of the reunion in the backdrop. The selfie spot drew everyone clicking away to glory with friends in tow. Heeding the appeal, most of them made alternative arrangements at work while night birds started arriving late after putting their editions to bed even as a few missed out.

Young wannabe journalists of the current batch were testing their videography skills capturing the moments.

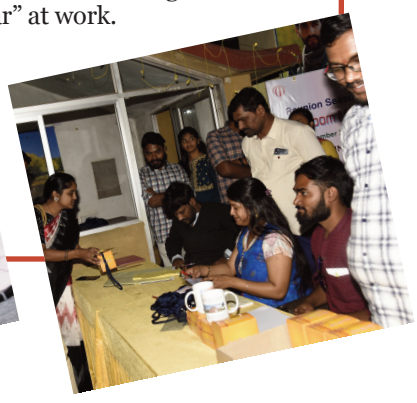
The food counter with hot phulkas, naan, biryani, fish fry, prawns, chicken curry and the vegetarian stuff, ghulab jamun were more than what the glutton could ask for.

V.Ramakanth, Senior journalist at DD News English coordinated the event after M.P Rabindranath alumnus (1968-70) who served journalism for 54 years was felicitated by Prof. K.Stevenson, Head, Department of Journalism & Mass Communication and Ch Sushil Rao, Special Features editor, Times of India who conferred the "Badge of Honour" to MPR.

In his acceptance speech, Mr. Rabindranath, recounted his days in the Department and his journey as an investigative journalist at Deccan Chronicle. Prof. Vinod Pavarala, School of Communication, HCU and Prof. Vishweshwar Rao (Dean at St. Joseph Degree College) also spoke. D.Ramakrishna Reddy, Advocae in the Supreme court flew down from Delhi for the reunion. D. Amar, National media advisor,AP government, Leo Augustine, social activist and lawyer, Syed Omer Jaleel, Secretary Board of Intermediate, several media professionals-journalists, public relations, advertising, government servants made the evening more memorable.

Sushil Rao helped students of the current batch to interview wome noed alumni-Tungathurthy MLA Mr. Kishore Gadari, Krishank Manne, TRS leader, Prof. Vishveshwar Rao to name a few. He also gave away medals to star performers who contributed to the success of the evening. Some of them include -Sweccha of TV9, Dr. Ramaswamy Kandle, part time Lecturer in the Department, Sneha Verghese for her cartoons, Deepika for her interviews.

It was the "Magic of the Cellar" at work.



'Media has fallen into a rat race, needs ethics'

B. Lumbini

Contemporary broadcast media has fallen into a rat race, but without ethics, there is no journalism, opined senior journalists in a panel discussion organised by the British High Commission recently.

Speaking to an audience of around 60 journalism students, M. Somasekhar, senior editor and chief of bureau at Business Line, said, "The four aspects of poor journalism these days are hype, conflict of interest, paid journalism and journalists siding with parties they cover."

He was part of a session on 'Media and Ethics -- Fake News and Challenges for Media', where the other participants were R. Ravikanth Reddy from The Hindu, Uma Sudhir from NDTV, and Prema Malini, a YouTuber and journalist.

Uma Sudhir said the walls between print, digital and electronic media were disappearing and that all the roles had merged.

Prema Malini said pursuit of journalism was a subjective thing and that the sensationalism characterising today's journalism is due to a lack of training.

Police officer Rema Rajeshwari said that cognitive laziness was the root cause of fake news. She mentioned digital literacy and confirmation bias as factors and discussed her experience in dealing with this while she was posted in Jogulamba Gadwal district.

The second panel discussion was on the word of the year (2017) 'Fake news', which means misinformation or incorrect information.

"We are flooded with a lot of information and often misinformation too. Misinformation is mainly spread on social media as everyone is an author and there is no editor," said senior journalist U Sudhakar Reddy from the *Times of India*.

Rakesh Dubbudu, who trains students in debunking fake news, said that misinformation is damaging businesses, human relations and social aspects. He mentioned that lot of incorrect information was in circulation and that the term 'fake news' was very complicated.

The third panel discussion was on 'Media Trends, Challenges for the New Generation'. between senior journalists Professor K.Nageshwar,Lalitha Iyer,Amar Ali Khan,Manju.

One opinion expressed in this discussion was that press freedom was severely misused and threat to media profession is exaggerated in our country. Prof. Nageshwar mentioned about tenant journalism as working in media organistations. "82 journalists were killed across the world last year in the field of journalism," said Lalitha Iyer and added that journalists who take Maoist movement as their beat are considered tigers.

Other panelists pointed out that gatekeeping is a major duty of a journalist and it is neglected most of the times.

The event was sponsored by Chevening Scholarship and the British High Commission on the occasion of International Human Rights Day. High Commissioner Andrew Fleming informed the participants about the Chevening fellowship and invited senior journalists and aspiring journalists to apply.